

THE
Urban District Council
OF
QUARRY BANK.
1900.

Chairman :

THOMAS BUTLER.

Vice-Chairman :

WILLIAM SIDAWAY.

Councillors :

EDWIN DUNN.

JESSE BILLINGHAM.

ALBERT SHAW.

FRANK WEBB.

JOHN GOODWIN.

ENOCH CARTWRIGHT.

NOAH TURNER.

MOSES STEVENS.

WILLIAM HENRY INGLEY.

DAVID MATTHEW CHAPMAN.

Clerk :

ALFRED HOMFRAY,

Solicitor, Cradley Heath.

Medical Officer of Health :

T. MAJOR TIBBETTS, M.B. (London), M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Public County Analyst :

E. W. T. JONES,


Wolverhampton.

Surveyor :

JOHN THOMAS ABBISS.

Sanitary Inspector :

DAVID SIDAWAY.



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... ANNUAL REPORT ...

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR THE YEAR 1900.

To the Chairman and Members of the Quarry Bank
Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,—

In the present report there will be some divergence from the general plan adopted in my previous Annual Reports, as, owing to the issue of fresh statistical forms by the Local Government Board and County Council, several of the tables usually included in the text will now be omitted.

Tables III and VII which have never previously appeared, will, I hope, be found useful for comparison.

The Mortality returns are not so satisfactory as those of the preceding year, the general Death-rate being slightly above, and the Zymotic and Infantile Death-rates slightly below, the averages of the previous ten years.

General Epidemics of Measles and Whooping Cough, and a very limited outbreak of Enteric Fever have occurred.

The Extension of the South Staffordshire Water Company's mains to Dunn's Bank and Level Woods in the early part of the year has met an old-standing grievance. Ravensitch and Mearce Coppice are still without a proper supply.

The first Section of the Internal Sewerage Scheme adopted in 1897 has been laid down.

Vital Statistics.

Population.

The population in 1891 was 6,732 living in 1,292 houses, and estimating by the usual methods it should have reached 7,224 by the middle of 1900.

Births.

During the year 255 births have been registered, of which 125 were of males, and 130 of females, the birth-rate being therefore 35.30 per 1,000 per annum, against 248 births, and a birth-rate of 34.64 in 1899.

Deaths.

134 deaths were recorded, 75 of males, and 59 of females. One of these, a female, died in the Isolation Hospital, but as her home was outside the district, I have excluded this in my calculations of the death-rate, &c. One death, that of an old man in the Workhouse outside the district has been included in the above figures, and in all calculations based on them. No death occurred in the Corbett Hospital, nor so far as I could ascertain at any other place outside the district among persons who resided in Quarry Bank. The corrected number of deaths is therefore 133, and the corrected death-rate 18.41 per 1,000 per annum, against 111 deaths, and a death-rate of 15.48 in 1899.

Table I.—AGES AT WHICH DEATH OCCURRED.

Under 1 year	...	...	35
1 and under 5 years	...	...	24
5 " 15 "	...	...	2
15 " 25 "	...	...	3
25 " 65 "	...	...	41
65 and over	...	...	28
Total			133

Table II.—DISEASES CAUSING DEATH.

A—CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES.

Chest Affections	...	20	Rheumatism	...	0
Phthisis	...	14	Influenza	...	1
Other Tubercular Diseases	3		Old Age...	...	9
Wasting Diseases	...	7	Premature Birth	..	5
Heart Diseases	...	4	Debility from Birth	...	3
Kidney Diseases	...	1	Dentition & Complications		1
Cirrhosis of Liver	}	...	Convulsions	...	2
Alcoholism			3	Lead Poisoning	...	0

*Nervous Diseases ...	14	Inquests :—		
Cancer ...	8	Injuries ...	6	13
Diabetes...	0	Natural Causes	7	
Gastro-Enteritis and Enteritis ...	3	Other Causes	...	5

Total, 116.

*Including Cerebral Hæmorrhage and Apoplexy.

B—ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever ...	0	Whooping Cough ...	6
Enteric (Typhoid) Fever	0	Measles ...	6
*Diarrhœa ...	4	Puerperal Fever ...	0
Diphtheria ...	0	Erysipelas ...	1
Membranous Croup ...	0		

Total, 17,

*As defined by Local Government Board. See Zymotic death-rate.

The Zymotic death-rate in any district is usually regarded, especially in conjunction with the Infantile death-rate, as the chief test of its healthiness. Unfortunately, this test has been vitiated by the lack of uniformity among medical men as to what does and what does not constitute Zymotic Diarrhœa. There is reason to believe that in your Annual Reports before 1897 only such deaths as were certified as due to Diarrhœa, were included in the category, when I came to the conclusion that other deaths certified as from Gastro-Enteritis and Enteritis were of the same nature, and decided to place them under this head. This was done from 1897 to 1899 inclusive. The Local Government Board has now determined the limit of application of the term "Diarrhœa" for the purposes of Sanitary statistics, extending its use to such diseases as Dysentery and English Cholera, but excluding Gastro-Enteritis and Enteritis except under certain specified circumstances. The present and all future Reports will accord with the Local Government Board's instructions. I make this explanation to simplify comparison with other tables.

Seventeen deaths were registered from Zymotic diseases, giving a Zymotic death-rate of 2.35 per 1,000 per annum.

Table III.

Synopsis of Birth and Death Rates in District, County of Stafford, and England.

	QUARRY BANK. 1900.	COUNTY OF STAFFORD 1899.		ENGLAND 1899.	
		General.	Urban Only	General.	Large Towns Only
Birth-rate ...	35'30	33'4	34'5	29'3	30'1
General Death-rate	18'41	17'2	17'8	18'3	20'2
Infantile Death-rate	137	168	179	154 (1900.)	181
Zymotic Death-rate	2'35	2'22	2'54	2'21	2'81

Whooping
Cough
and Measles.

Epidemics of both these diseases occurred during the latter part of the year. Measles first appeared in May, having in all probability spread from Cradley Heath, where it was then very prevalent. On July 13th, 13'5 per cent. of the children on the Register at the High Street Board Schools were absent, and I advised school closure for a month from that date. At Mount Pleasant Board Schools on July 25th, the absentees reached 15 per cent., and these schools also were then, on my advice, closed for a month. In both cases the results were satisfactory, the epidemics subsiding rapidly.

On September 22, I ascertained that the attendance at Mount Pleasant had again fallen off, the absentees reaching 29 per cent., half of which were attributed to Measles and Whooping Cough, and the remainder to the Hop-pickers exodus.

The cases of Measles and Whooping Cough lived outside your district, but as many of your children attended the schools, I again advised closure for a month. This was done, and no further cases arose.

My experience with both these diseases so far as concerns your district, is, that domestic precautions are practically futile as a preventive means, and in fact that school closure is not only an effective remedy, but the only one of any value.

Six deaths occurred from Measles and six from Whooping Cough, figures which must impress us that no measures, however drastic, should be spared that will arrest their progress.

Contrary to the general rule, there was no outbreak of Diarrhœa. Only a few cases of the nature of Epidemic Diarrhœa occurred in the last week of August and the following six weeks. Four deaths were recorded, one in January, one in September, and two in November. Three other deaths were attributed to Gastro-Enteritis and Enteritis, but there is reason from their seasonal distribution to regard these as due to faulty digestion and unsuitable food.

Diarrhœa.

One death occurred. There was no Epidemic.

Influenza.

Thirty-five deaths were registered among children under one year of age, giving an Infantile death-rate of 137 per 1,000 births against 153 in 1899, and an average of 161 in the previous ten years. A glance at Table III will show this to be a favourable record.

Infantile Mortality.

Table IV.

The causes of death under one year of age were :—

Whooping Cough ...	1	Dentition ...	1
Diarrhœa ..	3	Convulsions ...	2
Enteritis ...	2	Jaundice ...	1
Tubercular Disease ...	2	Inquests :—	
Acute Chest Diseases	5	Rupture of Bowel	1
Debility from Birth ...	3	Bronchitis ...	1
Premature Birth ...	5	Other Causes ...	1
Wasting Diseases ...	7		

Total, 35.

Of these, eight occurred within the first month of life, viz :—

Premature Birth ...	4	Jaundice ...	1
Debility from Birth ...	1	Wasting Diseases ...	2

Total, 8.

I use the term "Wasting Diseases" to include all those ill defined diseases, whose principal feature is gradual and general wasting, such as Marasmus, Inanition, and Atrophy, the true nature of which is not yet determined. They are probably often of Tubercular or digestive origin.

Inquests. Thirteen inquests have been held, the Coroner certifying that death was due in six cases to injury, and in seven to natural causes.

Uncertified Deaths. No deaths have been returned as uncertified.

Notification of Diseases.

Thirty-four cases of Infectious Diseases have been notified, against 27 in 1899. A tabulated list is appended to this report.

Scarlet Fever. There has been no Epidemic of Scarlet Fever, the few cases being widely scattered. School attendance was a possible connecting link in some of the cases, for instance, between the cases in Mount Pleasant and Mill Street at Mount Pleasant Schools, and those in Saltwell's Coppice and New Street at the High Street Schools. Thanks are due to the Head Masters of both schools, who have at my request kept a sharp look out for suspicious cases, and in this and many other instances kindly given such valuable information as to enable us to nip these potential epidemics in the bud.

Cases ... 9
Deaths... 0

There was no reason to suspect the Milk Supply.

Table V.

Cases of Scarlet Fever occurred in each of the following streets :--

<i>Street.</i>	<i>Date of First Case.</i>	<i>No. of Cases.</i>
Bower Lane ...	January 12th	... 1
Vine Street ...	February 19th	... 2 (in one house)
Mount Pleasant ...	June 26th	... 1
Mill Street ...	June 30th	... 1
Dunn's Bank ...	October 17th	... 1
Saltwell's Coppice	November 16th	... 1
New Street ...	December 13th	... 2 (in one house)

The earlier cases of this disease were so scattered as to suggest an independent origin. This applies to the cases in Church Street, High Street, Bower Lane, and the first cases in Saltwells Coppice and Maughan Street. The second case in Saltwells Coppice was obviously from personal infection, both residing in the same house, and the same may be said of the last three cases at least, in Maughan Street, as they were occupants of the same house either permanently or for nursing purposes. There is good reason to believe that the first case in Maughan Street (at No. 6), was imported into the district, the patient having been ill for some months, and having come to live in Quarry Bank some time after the illness set in. In every case the water supply was from the South Staffordshire Water Works Mains, and the Milk Supply, although common to all the Maughan Street cases, could not be credited with infection, as the disease was limited to a few adjacent houses, whereas the area supplied by milk from this dairy extended widely. Moreover, at least one patient never took milk.

Enteric Fever
(Typhoid)
Cases ... 10
Deaths... 0

It would be an easy matter to find sufficient Sanitary defects to cover the origin *de novo* of Enteric Fever in any of these infected houses in Maughan Street. In each case the privy-midden system was in use, in most cases the ashpits were uncovered, and in one the ashpit had no apparent containing wall. The soil surrounding these houses must be frequently charged with foul ground water and ground air, and the entrance of the latter through the pervious floor and walls of these old houses might account for the disease. These evils would be largely corrected by the deep Sewerage Scheme and the adoption of Water Closets, and in the interests of the poor especially, I would urge the Council to press this matter forward. Two of the houses were of a single storey, and in every case there was only one door, resembling in this respect back to back houses, whose ventilation is always unsatisfactory, and the death-rate among which has been shewn to exceed that in houses having good through ventilation.

Six cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

The hospital has been opened for Enteric Fever. The particulars are as follows :—

**Isolation
Hospital.**

Remaining from 1899	...	...	0
Admitted in 1900	...	...	6
Died in 1900 ...	...	...	0
Discharged cured 1900	...	...	1
Remaining December 31st, 1900	...	...	5

The steam disinfecter still works satisfactorily. There has been great difficulty in obtaining nurses, the arrangement with the Nursing Home proving a failure, as when required nurses were never available. I hope some remedy for this difficulty will soon be found.

A special Pail with patent air-tight spring lid has been purchased to receive excrement in cases of Enteric, and is sent to any case which is either doubtful or too ill for removal to hospital.

Table VI.

Showing date and distribution of cases of Scarlet and Enteric Fever during the year with the probable cause of the latter.

Month.	Scarlet Fever	Enteric Fever.	Locality of Enteric Fever.	Probable cause of Enteric Fever.
January...	1	—	—	—
February	2	1	Church Street	Stagnant water in Cellar. Foul surroundings.
March ...	—	1	High Street	Doubtful.
June ...	2	1	Bower Lane	Leaking Ashpit. Open Drain near house.
August ...	—	1	75, Saltwells Coppice	Doubtful.
October...	1	1	75, Saltwells Coppice	From previous case in August.
November	1	2	6, Maughan St. & 47, Maughan St.	Imported. Leaking Ashpit, &c.
December	2	3	47, Maughan St., two 48, Maughan St.	Previous case. Nursed case at 47.
Total ...	9	10		

Table VII.

Shows cases of Infectious disease notified since the adoption of the notification of Infectious Diseases' Act.

	Smallpox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Enteric Fever.	Continued Fever.	Typhus.	Puerperal.	Erysipelas.	Removed to Hospital from Quarry Bank.	Deaths in Hospital among Quarry Bank Patients.
1893	40	8	—	—	9	2	—	—	4	22 Smallpox	1
1894	6	14	5	1	1	—	—	—	5	6 Smallpox	0
1895	—	216	1	—	121	—	—	—	5	35 Enteric	2
1896	—	37	—	1	15	—	—	2	5	11 Enteric	2
1897	—	13	1	—	5	—	—	—	6	2 Enteric	0
1898	—	69	1	1	12	—	—	—	11	7 Enteric	0
1899	—	10	—	1	3	—	—	3	8	1 Scarlet	0
1900	—	9	—	—	10	—	—	—	15	6 Enteric	0

Table VII shews that Diphtheria and Membranous Croup are rare in the district. I have found the Bacteriological Test at Birmingham University as arranged by your Council and the County Council, of great use in deciding doubtful cases.

**Diphtheria
and
Membranous
Croup.**

Fifteen cases were reported. This is an usually large number, and their distribution suggests some possible local cause which I was not, however, able to trace.

Erysipelas.
Cases . . . 15
Deaths... 1

The cases occurred as follows :—

Birch Coppice	...	3	Queen Street	...	1
Victoria Road	...	2	Z Street	...	1
High Street	...	5	Bower Lane	...	1
New Street	...	1	Thorns Road	..	1

Total, 15.

Successfully vaccinated	...	...	...	..	...	199
Insusceptible	...	...	...	...	...	1
Died unvaccinated	...	...	...	..	...	30
Number in respect of whom Certificates of objection have been received						4
Postponed	...	...	...	...	..	12
Remaining	..	...	...	...	...	6

Vaccination.

There is no reason to believe that there is much improvement in regard to vaccination. The practice, especially with young mothers of insisting on one mark only (to attain which end they will wander from their family doctor to outside districts) is prompted no doubt by affection, but is born of ignorance. When Smallpox appears, their children will be found ill-protected, and disfigurement, or perhaps death, will prove at what cost they neglect the means, which, in the opinion of those most competent to judge, are, the only practical barrier to the ravages of Smallpox.

The following figures from 6,000 cases treated in the London Smallpox Hospital shew the necessity of efficient Vaccination.

Cases of Smallpox classified according to marks :—

				Number of Deaths per cent. in each Class.
1.	Unvaccinated	...	...	35½
2.	Stated to have been Vaccinated, but having no mark	...	...	21¾
3.	Having one mark	...	...	7½
4.	Having two marks	...	...	4¾
5.	Having three marks	...	...	1¾
6.	Having four or more marks	...	...	¾

Tuberculosis.

Seventeen deaths are attributed to Tubercular diseases, fourteen of which are from Phthisis or ordinary consumption of the lungs. This is a Phthisis death-rate of 1·9 per 1,000 per annum or 10·5 per cent. of the total deaths. These figures are alarming, being double those for the County of Stafford in 1899 or 1898, namely, 0·97 or 0·85. The causes of Phthisis and the circumstances favouring its spread, are now so well understood that one can speak dogmatically on the point.

The cause is the Tubercle Bacillus inhaled or taken in food. The circumstances favouring its development are :—

1. A feeble constitution, inherited, or acquired through illness or negligence.
2. Impure air.
3. Want of sunlight.
4. Damp, especially in dwellings.
5. Noxious gases and dusts which injure the tissues of the lung.

The expectoration of consumptive persons contains myriads of Tubercle Bacilli, which are often allowed to dry on handkerchiefs or even expectorated into the street. In the form of dust they occupy crevices of the houses, and will live for months. As Consumption is so common and its victims move often from house to house, they infect many houses. Inhaled by all, in those whose constitution is weakened they find little resistance and claim their victim. Impure air, damp, and noxious inhalations act by injuring especially the organs most often selected by these bacilli, viz., the lungs.

It is clear therefore that to fight this disease we must :—

1. Limit the number of bacilli, by encouraging consumptive patients to spit into special cups, which can be emptied frequently into the fire, or into such material as they can afford to burn such as paper or old rag.
2. Give consumptive patients separate bedrooms.
3. Encourage free ventilation in all rooms day and night.
4. Avoid damp houses.
5. Remove all causes of effluvia, and select such trades for susceptible persons as are free from noxious gases or irritating dusts.
6. Back to back houses, houses with only one door, low rooms and poor light are commoner in the district than is perhaps supposed, and these should be remedied when possible, and no new houses of this class erected.
7. The meat and milk supplies should be carefully watched, cow sheds and dairies inspected, and the aid of a veterinary surgeon called in, when there is any suspicion of the disease among the cattle.
8. Disinfect infected houses.

The County Council have extended their arrangement with Birmingham University, so as to apply the Bacteriological Test for Tuberculosis and Enteric Fever in addition to Diphtheria free of charge, and I have on several occasions decided doubtful cases through this means.

SANITARY NOTES.

See Surveyor's Report appended.

**Drainage and
Street Paving**

Scavenging.

Fifteen or twenty slop closets and a few ordinary water closets have been fixed in new houses in the district. The slop closets are not perfectly satisfactory, one or two getting blocked frequently. The night soil removal is still done by the Council without a contractor, and with greater efficiency. See also remarks under Enteric Fever.

Water Supply.

See Surveyor's Report.

Slaughter Houses, Dairies and Cow Sheds.

The slaughter houses have been inspected and found to be clean. The dairies and cow sheds need in many cases structural alterations, and some of the cow sheds are not properly cleansed.

Inspection of Meat.

The quality of meat sold in your district is almost uniformly good, the cheap butcher being fortunately non-existent. Vegetables are good, but the fish sometimes doubtful.

Factory and Workshops' Act.

No nuisance has been reported to me under this Act.

Overcrowding and House Accommodation

Twenty-eight cases of overcrowding have been discovered, fifteen of which were abated after notice. No houses have been formally condemned as unfit for habitation. Many new houses have been built, especially in Victoria Road.

Numbering of Houses.

The houses have been numbered throughout the district. Appended you will find the statistical forms required by the Local Government Board and the County Council, together with a summary of work done in the Surveyor's and Sanitary Inspector's Departments.

In conclusion, I must thank the members of the Council for the ready help they have always given me in the performance of my duties in the district.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

T. MAJOR TIBBETTS.

January 28th, 1901.

Local Government Board and Staffordshire County Council.

TABLE I. URBAN DISTRICT OF QUARRY BANK. For Whole District.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE		DEATHS AT ALL AGES. TOTAL.		Deaths in Public Institutions.	Deaths of Non-residents register'd in District.	Deaths of residents register'd beyond District.	DEATHS AT ALL AGES. NETT.	
		Number	Rate.*	Number	Rate per 1000 Births register'd	Number	Rate*.				Number	Rate.*
1	2											
1890	7193	297	41'20	54	181	139	19'30				139	19'30
1891	6732	295	43'67	45	152	131	19'45				131	19'45
1892	6802	293	43'07	55	187	147	21'61				147	21'61
1893	6862	271	39'46	44	162	120	17'48				120	17'48
1894	7000	268	38'28	35	130	96	13'71		1	1	96	13'71
1895	7127	256	35'92	39	152	129	18'10				129	18'10
1896	7007	230	32'82	44	195	123	17'55				123	17'55
1897	7060	267	37'81	28	104	104	14'73				104	14'73
1898	7115	254	35'69	48	190	137	19'25		1		136	19'11
1899	7170	248	34'64	38	153	111	15'48				111	15'48
Averages for years 1890-1899	7006	268	38'25	43	161	124	17'66			0'1	124	17'65
1900	7224	255	38'30	35	137	133	18'41		1	1	133	18'41

*Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in Acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 983.

Total population at all ages, 6,732. Number of inhabited houses, 1,292. Average number of persons per house, 5'21. At Census of 1891.

Local Government Board and Staffordshire County Council.

TABLE 3.

URBAN DISTRICT OF QUARRY BANK.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1900.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.				
	At Ages—Years.				
	At all Ages.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25	25 to 65
Erysipelas	15	1	4	3	7
Scarlet Fever	9	2	6	1	
Enteric Fever	10		2	2	6
Totals	34	3	12	6	13

Conjoint Isolation Hospital of Quarry Bank and Brierley Hill Urban Districts,
situated in Quarry Bank.

Local Government Board and Staffordshire County Council.

TABLE 4.

URBAN DISTRICT OF QUARRY BANK.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1900.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES						
	All Ages.	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards
Measles	6		5	1			
Whooping-cough... ..	6	1	5				
Epidemic influenza	1					1	
Diarrhoea	4	3	1				
Enteritis	3	2	1				
Erysipelas	1						1
Other septic diseases	1		1				
Phthisis	14		2		1	10	1
Other tubercular diseases	3	2	1				
Cancer, malignant disease	8					7	1
Bronchitis	14	2	1			6	5
Pneumonia	8	3	3	1		1	
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of liver	3					3	
Premature birth	5	5					
Diseases & accidents of parturition	1					1	
Heart disease	4					3	1
Accidents	5	3			1	1	
Suicides	1					1	
Nervous diseases... ..	4	1			1	2	
Hemiplegia	10					3	7
Congenital debility	3	3					
Marasmus	7	7					
Kidney Disease	1					1	
Old age	10						10
All other causes	10	3	4			1	2
All causes	133	35	24	2	3	41	28

Staffordshire County Council.

TABLE 5.

Summary of Sanitary Work done in the Nuisance Inspector's Department during the Year 1900, in the Urban District of Quarry Bank.

				Inspections and Observations made.	Formal Notices by Authority.	Nuisances Abated after Notice.
Dwelling-houses and Schools.	{	Foul Conditions	40	30	28	
		Structural Defects	50	18	18	
		Overcrowding	28	15	15	
	House Drainage	{	Unfit for Habitation	None	in dis-	trict.
			Lodging-houses	31		
			Dairies and Milkshops... ..	24		
			Cowsheds	20		
			Bakehouses	24		
			Slaughter-houses	None	in dis-	trict.
			Canal Boats	545		
Ashpits and Privies			40	20	20	
Deposits of Refuse and Manure			37			
Water Closets			22			
House Drainage	{	Defective Traps	150			
		No Disconnection	57			
		Other faults	30	14	14	
		Water Supply				
		Pigsties	20	3	3	
		Animals improperly kept				
		Offensive Trades	50	20	20	
Smoke Nuisance						
Other Nuisances						
TOTALS				1168	120	118

Seizures of Unwholesome Food	None.
Samples of Food taken for Analysis	None.
„ „ found adulterated	None.
„ of Water taken for Analysis	None.
„ „ condemned as unfit for use	None.

Precautions against Infectious Disease.

Lots of Infected Bedding Disinfected or Destroyed	15
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease	24
School ditto ditto	3
Prosecutions for not Notifying Existence of Infectious Disease	None.
Convictions ditto ditto	None.
Prosecutions for Exposure of Infected Persons or things	None.
Convictions ditto ditto	None.

(Signed) DAVID SIDAWAY,

January 18th, 1901.

Inspector of Nuisances.

Summary of Work done in the Surveyor's Department during the year 1900.

PAVING.

Works of Paving have been proceeded with during the year and the following quantities of materials have been used in the several Streets which have been in hand.

Blue Bricks from Messrs. Mobberley and Perry, twenty-two thousand two hundred and twenty-five, (22,225).

KERBING AND CHANNELLING.

Rowley Squares for Channelling, upwards of 134 tons.

Dressed Rowley Kerb 875 yards. The above from Messrs. Richards and Blewitt.

REPAIRS OF HIGHWAYS (Main Road).

300 Tons of Rowley Stone will be put on the Thorns Road in accordance with the Council's contract with the County Council for £185 per year for a period of three years.

OTHER ROADS.

181 Tons of Blast Furnace Cinders have been used on various Roads during the year.

DRAINAGE.

During the year House Connections to the Deep Sewer have been made in the lower portion of New Street.

SEWERING.

The first section of the Council's system of internal sewerage has been laid down, extending from the Upper Stour Valley Sewerage Board's intercepting Sewer, on the East of Bireh Coppice to the centre of the Victoria Road. Other portions of this work are in hand for proceeding at an early date.

PRIVATE STREET WORKS.

During the year the re-making of Oak Street has been before the Council and a tender having been accepted from Messrs. Guest and Sons, of Brettell Lane.

The work has been carried out and the expenses apportioned among the Frontagers.

WATER SUPPLY.

During the year the houses in the areas known as The Level Woods and Dunn's Bank, have been provided with a supply of water by the South Staffordshire Water Works Company, who extended their mains under a special agreement with the Council.

Mearee Coppice and Ravensitch are now the only parts of the Council's district which have to depend on wells for their water.

The number of houses to which the water has been laid during the year is fifty-eight, (58).

BUILDING PLANS.

The number of Plans submitted to the Council and approved has been 12, as follows :—

High Street—Alterations,	Mrs. Willis.
„ Two Shops,	Mr. E. Skelding, Jun.
„ Alterations,	Mr. Moses Stevens, New Inn.
Dunn's Bank—House,	Mr. W. A. Brettell.
Victoria Road—Two Villas,	Messrs. Weaver and Cope.
„ Cottage,	Mr. B. Webb, not proceeded with
„ House	Mr. J. T. Abbiss.
New Street—New Shopping	Mr. B. Ketley.
„ Alteration to Stores	Mr. John Goodwin.
Stour Hill—Alterations to House	Mr. Jas. Butler.
Church Street—Chain Testing Shed,	Mr. A. Billingham.
Oak Street—Two Houses	Mr. Henry Raybould.

JOHN T. ABBISS,

January, 1901.

Surveyor to the Council.